



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2000

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

John B. Townsend II, 202/586-5806

DOE Announces \$700,000 for Renewable Energy Feasibility Studies at Tribal Colleges

The Department of Energy (DOE) today announced the availability of \$700,000 in funding for feasibility plans and studies for the installation of renewable energy projects at Native American Tribal colleges and universities. The funding, which will be awarded competitively after a national competition, will be provided for feasibility studies for projects to be completed in 2001.

"We want to combine the energy producing capabilities of renewable technologies with the educational opportunities available in working with the hardware," said Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Dan Reicher. "With only one month until the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, it seems only fitting to continue our work with Native American on ways in which we can use clean, renewable sources of energy in the future."

Proposals will be accepted only from tribal colleges and universities and they must be integrated with educational programs and science curricula. Eligible technologies will include photovoltaics, wind, biomass power, hydro power, concentrating solar power, solar thermal systems, geothermal electricity generation and geothermal resources for direct heating. The applications may include the use of renewable power for direct electrical generation, building uses, and water pumping. Proposals should also demonstrate the potential for replication as well as educational, economic and environmental benefits.

Joining Assistant Secretary Reicher in making the announcement in Washington, D.C., were Mr. Ron McNeil, President of Sitting Bull College; Dr. Joseph McDonald, President of Salish Kootenai College; and Dr. Carty Monette, President of Turtle Mountain Community College.

The Department of Energy researches, develops and deploys clean, efficient and renewable energy technologies to help meet America's energy needs while protecting the environment and strengthening the economy. Energy technologies supported and promoted by the department will play a key role in providing Clean Energy for the 21st Century.

- DOE -

Jack L. Stone
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
National Center for Photovoltaics (NCPV)
1617 Cole Boulevard, Mail Stop 3221

Golden, CO 80401 USA
(303)384-6470 (x6481 fax)
jack_stone@nrel.gov